

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NCDOT Division 14 is proposing to pave, widen, and upgrade SR 1364 / SR 1114 (Needmore Road) to secondary road standards. The project covers a distance of 3.31 miles and involves portions in both Swain County and Macon County. The project area is shown on the attached map (see Figure 1).

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the unpaved portion of Needmore Road. The scope of work involves paving and cross-section improvements to bring the road up to minimum secondary road standards. The purpose of the improvements are to:

- Reduce travel time between Swain and Macon Counties.
- Reduce the amount of sedimentation introduced into the Little Tennessee River.
- Make recreational facilities more accessible. (Fontana Lake)
- Improve the safety of the road.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

The three alternatives for this project are no-build, pave in place, and bring the existing alignment up to minimum secondary road standards. The no-build alternative (Alternative # 1) would maintain the road in its existing condition. The pave in place alternative (Alternative # 2) would pave the existing alignment with no additional improvements.

The third alternative (Alternative # 3) proposes to improve the existing unpaved portion of SR 1364 / SR 1114 (Needmore Road) by widening it to two 9-foot lanes with 5-foot grass shoulders and culverts and ditches where required. The improvements will follow the existing alignment except where it is necessary to shift that alignment to avoid wetland impacts or impacts to pyritic (acid) rock.

Swain County has an area of concern as shown in Figure 2. Alternative 3a in this area proposes to widen the road toward the Little Tennessee River. Alternative 3b proposes to widen away from the river and excavate into the mountainside. Both alternatives propose a 3-foot grade change to correct a flooding problem in this area. Both alternatives will have impacts to the Little Tennessee River.